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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ADS-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 OMB-01
TRSE-00 DCT-02 MC-02 SY-05 SYE-00 /106 W
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O R 112114Z JAN 80
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3775
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
USUN NEW YORK 1971
MEMBASSY ROME 767
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
() Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s): B-1
Declassify: () In Part () In Full
() Classify as S () Extend as () Downgrade to
Date 5/16/01 Declassify on 5/15/11 Reason 25X6

[REDACTED] SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 0330

USEEC ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 12065: XDS-4 1/11/00 (FRIEDMAN, TOWNSEND, B.) OR-P
TAGS : SHUM, ASEC, AR
SUBJECT: (U) HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY - JANUARY 5-11, 1980

REF: BUENOS AIRES 0102

1. [REDACTED] TERRORIST ARSENAL DISCOVERED----

A LARGE TERRORIST ARSENAL CONTAINING AUTOMATIC
WEAPONS, HAND GRENADES, LARGE AMOUNTS OF AMMUNITION AND
EXPLOSIVES WAS DISCOVERED ACCIDENTALLY DURING A BUENOS AIRES
WAREHOUSE FIRE LATE DECEMBER. THE WEAPONS PROBABLY BELONGED
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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TO THE MONTONEROS.

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2. [REDACTED] GOA ALARM AT UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION----
THE GOA IS HIGHLY CONCERNED THAT THE FEBRUARY 4
MEETING OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WILL
CONDEMN IT FOR VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS. HEADING
OFF SUCH A CONDEMNATION HAS BEEN AT THE CENTER
OF ARGENTINE DIPLOMACY FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. IT
HAS REINFORCED THE COUNTRY'S COURTSHIP OF THE
SOVIET UNION AND MOSCOW'S THIRD WORLD FRIENDS.
THESE TACTICS HAVE AFFECTED THE GOVERNMENT'S
ATTITUDE AND ACTIONS TOWARDS EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN.
IN ORDER TO HAVE THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TEAM IN
GENEVA FOR THE UNHRC MEETING, THE GOA IS SENDING
ITS AMBASSADOR TO THE UN ENRIQUE ROSS TO ATTEND.

THE GOA IS CONCENTRATING ON INTERNATIONAL
TACTICS RATHER THAN SEEKING TO ACCELERATE HUMAN
RIGHTS IMPROVEMENT AT HOME. THESE PRIORITIES SEEM
TO BE A PRODUCT OF:

- A CONVICTION THAT ARGENTINA DID NOTHING TO
EARN CENSORSHIP AND A GENUINE DESIRE NOT TO BE
STAMPED AS A HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATOR;
- A CONVICTION THAT NO MATTER WHAT THE GOA
DOES AT HOME IT IS IN FOR A PERIOD OF INTERNATIONAL
CENSORSHIP LED BY NATIONS AND GROUPS OUT TO GET THE
GOA;
- A CONCERN FOR THE ATTITUDES OF HARD-LINE
CRITICS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY. ON THE ONE
HAND THESE GROUPS WILL LAMBASTE THE GOVERNMENT
FOR ENCOURAGING INTERNATIONAL CRITICS, BY SEEMING
TO RESPOND TO THEM (TIMERMAN; IAHRC; CAMPORA).
ON THE OTHER HAND THEY MADE IT DIFFICULT TO IMPROVE

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THE SITUATION AT HOME.

3. (U) PRESUMPTIVE DEATH LAW--A CLARIFICATION----
CORRECTING WHAT WE REPORTED EARLIER (BUENOS AIRES
10365) WE HAVE LEARNED FROM A HUMAN RIGHTS SOURCE
THAT THE PROSECUTOR'S ATTEMPT TO INVOKE THE
CONTROVERSIAL PRESUMPTIVE DEATH LAW IN THE CASE
OF FORMER AMBASSADOR HILDAGO SOLA WAS ON INDIVIDUAL
INITIATIVE BY THE PROSECUTOR. THE COURT OPINED
THAT A PROSECUTOR COULD ONLY MAKE SUCH A REQUEST
ON THE EXPRESS INSTRUCTION OF THE EXECUTIVE,
INSTRUCTIONS THAT WERE ABSENT IN THIS CASE.

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THUS, AS FAR AS WE KNOW THERE HAS BEEN NO ATTEMPT
BY THE GOVERNMENT TO USE THE NEW LAW. WE UNDER-
STAND THAT TWENTY TO THIRTY FAMILIES HAVE BEGUN
PROCEEDINGS TO USE THE LAW.

4. [REDACTED] PRISON CONDITIONS----

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USEEC

ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE

THAT PRISON DIRECTORS HAVE ON THEIR OWN DIVIDED

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PRISONERS INTO THREE CATEGORIES -- INCORRIGIBLES, INTERMEDIATES, AND THOSE WHO ARE "RECOVERABLE." THE LATTER CATEGORY GETS THE FULL CATEGORY OF RIGHTS LISTED IN THE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE; THE INTERMEDIARY CATEGORY SOME OF THE RIGHTS, AND THE INCORRIGIBLES [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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THE FEWEST OF ALL: THIS RESTRICTION AFFECTS IN PARTICULAR, RECREATION AND EXERCISE. THUS, FOR EXAMPLE, THOUGH PRISON CONDITIONS HAVE IMPROVED AT RAWSON SINCE IT HOUSES ONLY "INCORRIGIBLES" RECREATION AND EXERCISE REMAIN VERY RESTRICTED.

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5. [REDACTED] PAPAL NUNCIO'S WORDS ECHO----
THE PAPAL NUNCIO PIO LAGHI'S VIRTUAL EQUATION OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND THE LEFTIST TERRORISTS IN PUBLIC REMARKS HAS OBVIOUSLY UPSET THE GOA. FOREIGN MINISTER PASTOR MADE CLEAR THE GOA'S DISPLEASURE EVEN AS HE REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THE NUNCIO'S STATEMENTS LAST WEEK. WE UNDERSTAND THAT IN PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS, THE NUNCIO HAS BEEN EVEN LESS DIPLOMATIC CALLING THE GOA "A BUNCH OF ASSASSINS" AND VOICING WONDER AT HOW THE ARGENTINES ARE ABLE TO TOLERATE THEIR GOVERNMENT. IT IS LIKELY THAT SUCH REPORTED REMARKS FIND THEIR WAY TO THE GOA, AS WELL. THE NUNCIO MAY BE EXERCISING HIS OWN PIQUE AT THE GOA SINCE THE VATICAN ITSELF HAS BEEN MORE CAREFUL--FOR EXAMPLE WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE POPE REFUSED A PRIVATE MEETING WITH A DELEGATION OF PLAZA DE MAYO MOTHERS WHO ARE PRESENTLY IN EUROPE, LIMITING HIMSELF TO A BRIEF PUBLIC HANDSHAKE AND EXCHANGE OF WORDS.
CHAPLIN

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